# V CORPS CONVOY SAFETY CHAIN TEACHING PACKAGE



# TOP THREE ACCIDENT **CAUSES** FOLLOWING TOO CLOSE **SPEEDING FATIGUE**







#### **STANDARDS**

AR 55-29

AR 385-55

AR 600-55

**UR 55-1** 

**UR 385-55** 

**UR PAM 385-15** 

FM 21-305

**FM 55-30** 

V CORPS SAFETY PROGRAM SOP



#### **UNIT COMMANDERS:**



- Ensure risk management is applied to convoy operations.
- Carefully select and thoroughly brief convoy commanders on their duties and responsibilities.
- Ensure battalion-level driver training is IAW AR 600-55.
- Ensure unit SOP specifically addresses duties and responsibilities of drivers, assistant drivers, and senior occupants.
- Enforce safety belt use in vehicles equipped with seat belts.

#### **CONVOY COMMANDERS:**

- Have knowledge of all restrictions required by Ground Precautionary Messages, Safety of Use Messages, Safety Alert Messages, etc., for vehicles in the convoy.
- Ensure that special attention is placed on seatbelt use.
- Ensure rest stops are used and maximum driving times are IAW UR 385-55.
- Ensure troops are briefed on convoy speeds, catch-up speed, following distance,

#### **SERIAL OR MARCH UNIT COMMANDERS:**

- Maintain positive control of convoy serial or march unit at all times.
- Be in a position where they can best control their convoy element.
- Supervise the operation of the serial or march unit and ensure break downs and other emergency procedular ided to properly.

#### **DRIVER AND ASSISTANCE DRIVER:**

- Have knowledge of all restrictions required by Ground Precautionary Messages, Safety of Use Messages, Safety Alert Mes their vehicle.
- Use seat belts at all times.
- Use rest stops to stretch and relax.
- Use only the briefed convoy speed, catch-up speed, and following distances.
- Follow all directions given by convoy and serial commanders.
- Respond to emergency situations as

#### **SENIOR OCCUPANT:**

- Have knowledge of all restrictions required by Ground Precautionary Messages, Safety of Use Messages, Safety Alert Messages, etc., for vehicles in the convoy.
- Ensure seat belts are used at all times.
- Ensure rest stops are used and maximum driving times are IAW UR 385-55. If driver is tired take action to replace him or her.
- Ensure driver operates vehicle at the authorized convoy speed, catch-up speed, and following distance.
- Ensure driver does not violate traffic laws

- Identify each march column with convoy flags (unless prohibited by host nation).
- All tracked vehicles in a convoy will have Rotating Amber Warning Lights (RAWLs) installed. If a tracked vehicle is travelling alone with an escort, the RAWL must be turned on.
- Clean lights, reflectors, reflective tape and delineator plates.
- Convoy must use right lane when traveling on Autobahn.
- Comply with inclement weather road condition standards (UR 385-55).

LEAD ESCORT VEHICLE (LEV) WILI.

- Be designated by convoy commances
- Have a RAWL on at all times durin
- Set and maintain pace established by the convoy commander.
- Check the time at start point, critical point, checkpoints, and release point.
- Advise the convoy commander of any obstacles or road hazards that may cause a deviation from established route.
- Slow the convoy speed in preparation for exits, highway/autobahn entrances and tunnels.
- Will display a sign with the words "Convoy

#### TRAIL ESCORT VEHICLE (TEV) WILL:

- Be designated by convoy commander
- Must be a 2 1/2 ton or larger vehicle.
- Must not transport personnel or hazardous material.
- Must not haul a trailer.
- Must have a RAWL installed and used at all times during convoy.
- Will display a sign with th "Convoy Ahead":

- All vehicles in convoy will adhere to the vehicle interval requirements to provide adequate space for passing vehicles.
- Space between vehicles in an open-column march unit will be at least 100 meter interval on autobahns and 50 meter interval on secondary roads (excluding congested areas).
- When approaching congested areas march units will reduce speed and vehicle intervals. Interval space will be 25 meters.
- Follow speed limits identified in V Corps Safety Program SOP.

# KEVLAR HELMETS WILL BE WORN WITH THE CHINSTRAP SECURED UNDER THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS:

- When driving or riding in a tactical (M series) vehicle at all times, including the motor pool.
- When driving or riding in a non-tactical vehicle participating in training exercises.
- Reference: USAREUR Commander decision announced during USAREUR BOD 25 SEP 01.

# PREOPERATION REQUIREMENTS

**CONVOY AND SERIAL COMMANDERS WILL:** 

- Review the operating standards in USAREUR Reg 55-1.
- Conduct risk management of the convoy.
- Identify hazards along the march route. A physical reconnaissance of the march route should be conducted.
- Prepare and distribute convoy strip maps to each driver during the pre-mission briefing.
- Limit march units to 25 vehicles and march serials to no more than 5 march units (under normal circumstances).

#### PREOPERATIONAL CHECKS

# **CONVOY AND SERIAL COMMANDER WILL ENSURE:**

- Drivers are aware of any restrictions required by special permits (e.g., hazardous cargo and special hauling permits).
- Drivers and assistant drivers
- Radio checks are completed.
- Each vehicle has a strip map.
- A safety briefing is given to all participants, should be done as part of the pre-mission

# PREOPERATIONAL CHECKS (Cont'd)

CONVOY AND SERIAL COMMANDER WILL ENSURE:

- Intervals have been discussed.
- Safety equipment (RAWLs, first aid kits, and warning triangles) is present for each vehicle IAW AR and UR 385-55.
- Convoy signs are placed on the lead and trail vehicles.
- Required security measur implemented.
- Hazards or threats have balance the route.

## **POST OPERATIONAL**

CONVOY AND SECHEGIAS ANDER WILL ENSURE:

- Ensure all vehicles and personnel are accounted for.
- Ensure all accidents no matter how minor have been reported to the chain of command.
- Debrief drivers to identify hazards identified during convoy and report them to the convoy control center and chain of command
- Identify weak drivers who may additional training.
- Make notes for lessons learned for future

convoys with this unit.

## **SUMMARY**

- Convoys that are conducted to standard normally involve less risk.
- Leaders should take steps now to ensure drivers training and vehicle maintenance are to standard.
- Good risk management can identify most hazards and leaders can take steps to reduce or eliminate those hazards.
- Since many accidents involve speeding, following too close and fatigue it is best to focus efforts to reduce these causes.
- Preoperational checks can identify last minute issues that can create hazards.